

MY GARDEN AND WHAT TO GROW

No. 31

SEPTEMBER 1923

Gratis

It is in September that our spring truly begins. You can now expect more fine days and more sunshine, and after the cold, wet weather that has been continuous here at the Cape for the last three months, sunshine will surely not be denied us in this month when we have learnt to look for it with confidence.

September is always a busy month for the Gardener, for it is now that the more tender summer Vegetables and Flowering plants may be seeded. But, on your winter work will depend, to a very great extent, whether you are able now to get through the great amount of labour that is necessary to provide for a sufficient sowing of every crop that you desire to grow at this season. If your winter's work has been well done, the soil will be in a fit condition now for the crops they are to receive.

Looking over our notes in the September number of last year, we find a paragraph which will surely serve us well every season and we can not refrain from reprinting it here.

Nearly all the Summer crops can now be sown unless, perchance, the cold August weather unexpectedly continues, and in any case you must make free use of your own good judgment. We can only help you just a little in these notes. We cannot tell you exactly what to do under every circumstance. If you have a cold and wet situation to fill it is always well to wait a while before sowing. Watch the condition of the soil surface. You will, of course, have prepared it by digging and after a rain you will loosen it up again with a "Norcross" cultivator or other implement suited to the size and condition of your ground. If the soil is then in a crumbly condition it is probably right for sowing or planting, but if it is inclined to remain wet and pasty, it is probably still too cold or it may be that the drainage is at fault. In any case few crops will succeed on soil that is in a cold, wet condition, for such soil is usually also sour and of course it is insufficiently aerated. An overwet condition is detrimental to the soil bacteria so necessary to the growth of plants—especially leguminous plants.

Drainage is the one great question for the Farmer, the Gardener, the Horticulturist, the Viticulturist and, in fact, for every grower of crops of every description. There are few crops indeed that will give the best yield if this question is neglected. It is a common error to suppose that ill-drained soil will support a crop later into our dry summers. The experienced grower will usually tell you that a crop grown on well drained soil will stand more drought and the reason for this is simple. It is because the plants have been able to develop a deeper root system and they are consequently drawing moisture from lower levels. And yet the matter of drainage is frequently left entirely to chance. Sometimes to avoid expense and sometimes just to avoid a little extra trouble. But, does it pay to neglect it? We are quite sure it does not. Any good soil that needs draining will easily pay for the drainage out of the extra crop obtained, if not in the first year, then in two years at most. You simply cannot afford to neglect this matter.

And then there is that old topic—Leguminous Crops. We have written about it over and over again. It is one of those big things that matter to the grower of crops. It is just the same thing as “crop rotation” but you can rotate crops to very little advantage if Legumens are not allowed to fill their proper place in the rotation. When selecting your crops you must see that at least one crop in every three, or four at most, is a legume. This is for the benefit of the soil. That is the point of view from which it is usually considered, but there are other points of view also and fortunately they all point to the same conclusion. If you are growing Vegetables it is important, for the health of your family, that a proper proportion of legumens should be included. If you are growing forage crops it is equally important, for the health of your animals that they should be included. If you are growing for profit it is also important that a due proportion of legumens should be included for the simple reason that they are profitable crops from every point of view.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Nearly every kind of Vegetable may be sown in September and it is very much simpler to mention the kinds that ought to be omitted rather than give a list of the varieties to be sown.

It is still a little early for Lima Beans unless the soil and situation are very favourable, but in any case you must lose no time with them when the conditions are suitable because they want a fairly long season.

For spring sowing the late varieties of Onion should not be used but excellent results may be expected from such varieties as “Yellow Bermuda” and “Crystal Wax.”

It is late for Swedes because they require a long season and in very hot weather they will not be very palatable. If you do sow now try “Norrköping Improved Green Top,” it is a quick maturing variety.

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts and Cauliflower may very well be omitted at this season. It is difficult to get good results from them in the hot weather. Cabbages are not quite so difficult, but the large, late varieties should be omitted in favour of the smaller types such as “Early Jersey Wakefield,” “Winningstadt Early,” “Green Globe Savoy” and “Dark Red Early Dutch.”

If we have still left you in any doubt as to what may be sown, just read again our notes for August under this heading and bear in mind that you can add to the August recommendations practically any Vegetable that has not been ruled out here.

VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS.

		Per 100	1000
Beet , Flat Egyptian	...	1/3	10/6
Broccoli , White Mammoth	...	2/-	
Brussels Sprouts	...	2/-	
Cabbage , Cape Spitzkool	...	1/3	10/6
„ Early Jersey Wakefield	...	1/3	10/6
„ Enkhuizen Glory	...	1/3	10/6
„ Large Oxheart	...	1/3	10/6
„ Large Red Drumhead	...	1/3	10/6
„ Robinson's Ch. Drumhead	...	1/3	10/6
„ Warner's Drumhead	...	1/3	10/6
„ Dwarf Early Savoy	...	1/3	10/6

Cauliflower, Italian Giant	...	...	1/9	15/-
" Wiehahn's Cape	...	...	1/9	15/-
" Woodside Early	...	...	1/9	15/-
Kale, Curled Garden	...	...	1/3	10/6
" Thousand Headed	...	...	1/3	10/6
Kohl-Rabi, Goliath	...	...	1/3	10/6
Lettuce, Giant Crystal Head	...	...	1/3	10/6
Onion, Cape Straw-Coloured	...	...	1/3	8/6
" Crystal Wax	...	...	1/3	8/6
" Danvers Yellow Globe	...	...	1/3	8/6
" Early Flat Yellow Cape	...	...	1/3	8/6
" White Queen	...	...	1/3	8/6
" Yellow Bermuda	...	...	1/3	8/6
Parsley, Curled, 6d doz.	...	...	2/6	
Marjoram, Thyme, Peppermint	...	...	3/-	
Mint	...	...	1/-	

KITCHEN GARDEN FRUITS.

Rhubarb.—Splendid roots are still available. Price 1/- each or 9/ per dozen. Postage and packing extra.

Loganberries.—These can still be supplied. Price 1/6 each; 15/- per dozen; 100/- per hundred. Postage and packing extra.

Asparagus.—Strong 2 year-old plants of "Woodside Giant French" Asparagus are available at 3/6 per doz. and 20/- per 100. These may be set out in a well-prepared bed which should be dug to a depth of 2 to 3 ft., and should be filled up with plenty of stable manure and other refuse so as to make a rich compost, because the plants will not be disturbed for many years. Order promptly.

Strawberries.—We can still supply the following varieties at 1/6 dozen; 5/- 100

LEADER.—Very large, bright crimson fruit. Firm flesh with a rich pine-like flavour. The earliest of all.

THE BEDFORD.—Fine flavour, vigorous grower and heavy cropper.

THE LAXTON.—Fruit large and pointed, dark red, heavy cropper, unusually long fruit stems, good acid flavour.

Seed Potatoes.—Imported Early Rose Seed Potatoes have arrived and the Up-To-Date variety is expected during this month. In the meantime we still have a few cases of South African Grown Up-To-Date. Prices are as follows:—

Up-To-Date (S.A. Growth) ... 10/6 per case of 66 lbs

Early Rose (Imported) ... 15/9 per case of 66 lbs

Up-To-Date (Imported) ... 14/9 per case of 66 lbs

Imported seed is very reliable owing to the change of environment and it will pay you well to put in a good quantity of this seed both for a market crop and to raise "First-Growth" seed for your own planting in the autumn.

Our Imported French Grown Seed Potatoes are usually very clean and free from Scab or any other disease, but if you are planting locally grown seed it is an excellent precaution to treat them before planting by immersion for 2 hours in **Starke's Kudu-Formal** diluted to a strength of 1 to 240. That is 1 oz of the **Kudu-Formal** to 1½ gallons of water.

This is the same specific as is used for the prevention of Smut in Wheat and other Cereals and its proved success for that purpose should induce growers to give it a thorough trial on their potatoes also.

Kudu-Formal.—Per 1 lb bottle 4/-; 5 lb jar 15/-; 10 lb jar 25/-

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Closely watch all Peach and Nectarine Trees for the Black Peach Aphis. It will seriously damage the trees and effectually prevent healthy growth if allowed to gain the upper hand. Probably you have already sprayed for this with McDougall's Fruit Tree Wash as recommended in last month's notes and if any are left on the trees, spray again, and again, until you have mastered them. Spraying for this pest should be at intervals of 6 or 7 days. The correct interval between applications is important for most pests but particularly so for this one.

Apples, Pears, Quinces and similar fruits should be sprayed for the control of Codling Moth as soon as the blossoms are about to fall. Arsenate of Lead is used for this work. It is deadly poison and should be used with great care. Follow the instructions carefully and take no risks. Different varieties flower at different times and even on the same tree all flowers do not open together, and it is therefore necessary to spray at suitable intervals to catch all blossoms at approximately the same stage. The spraying should be carried out thoroughly and with great care, the spray being directed against the blossom ends of the young fruits as much as possible.

A full list of spraying materials will be found in your June copy of this leaflet.

We have strong trees of the following:—				In $\frac{1}{4}$ tins	$\frac{1}{2}$ tins
Guavas,	Cherry	...	...	2/-	3/6
„	White	...	...	2/-	3/6
„	Pink	...	...	...	3/6
Loquats,	Common	...	...	2/-	
„	Mammoth Madeira	...	...	2/6	

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Spring conditions will regulate your work in this department also. The sowing of spring annuals will proceed apace and many perennials may with advantage be sown now. Canterbury Bells—and perhaps many other similar plants—may be sown this month and next and, if well treated and cared for during the summer months, they will make strong plants for setting out next autumn and will flower the following spring, whereas, if left for autumn sowing they flower a season later.

Delphiniums may still be planted out this month. Have you tried the beautiful hybrids that we are now offering at 3/6 per dozen? They give magnificent spikes of bloom in every shade of blue.

Barborton Daisy seed has arrived. You should order at once because it is important that this seed should be sown quite fresh. Try it in the open ground in well drained soil that will not dry off too rapidly. They are deep rooting plants and do not like their roots to be confined by the limits of a shallow pot or seed pan. The young seedlings appear within about a week but develop very slowly so that it is as well to put them where they can remain for at least one year. Some may flower within that time and after they are well established they are easily moved to the permanent situation. Nothing can better repay a little extra trouble. When well established they are in flower practically the whole year, and such beautiful flowers too!

Barborton Daisy Hybrids.—A fine range of colours. Twelve seeds for 6d; 100 for 2/6

Barborton Daisy, Scarlet.—Twelve seeds for 6d; 2/6 100

Agapanthus.—For lining a carriage drive nothing is finer than the Blue Agapanthus placed in clumps about six feet apart so that, eventually, there will be a space of about three feet between each clump. The tall stems and magnificent umbels of beautiful blue flowers standing well above the bold strap shaped leaves form a very striking combination. Price 9d each; 7/6 per dozen. They may be planted this month.

Cannas are also very striking for planting out in clumps at irregular intervals on a piece of more or less waste ground near the homestead. For this special purpose we are offering a cheap line of these handsome plants in red shades and yellow shades, separately, at 5/- per dozen or 20/- per 100

Dahlias are now sold out, so far as the dry tubers are concerned, but we are now growing young plants which should be ready about November. Excellent results are obtained from these young plants. They flower early in the New Year and if they have good treatment the flowers are usually of exceptional quality, while the tubers obtained from them make the best of growth and flower well again the following season. Last season we imported a fine batch of new varieties including a good selection of the new large flowering decorative types. These imported tubers gave magnificent blooms during the past season and they are included in the batch from which we are now propagating. With these new Dahlias, added to our well known collection of Cactus and other types, we are now in a position to offer a selection that will be difficult to equal in this country. We hope to print a new catalogue of Dahlias in October.

Roses are now sold out but orders continue to come in. These it is impossible to execute until next season when they will be ready again in June and July.

Carnations are also practically sold out so far as the autumn batch is concerned and orders received now will be held over for delivery from the next batch which we hope to have ready about November.

Chrysanthemums appear to be rooting well and we hope to have a fine lot ready for delivery in October. In the meantime we are preparing our new catalogue of these and hope to send it out within the next two or three weeks. We still have a few copies of last season's catalogue which will be helpful if you wish to make an early selection. A post card will bring you a free copy by return of post. When making up your order it is always advisable to name a few extra varieties as substitutes in case we are unable to supply all that you have selected. This frequently avoids disappointment. If you object to any substitutions being made, please mark your order clearly "no substitutions," and we will send only the varieties ordered and omit any that are not available.

Flowering Shrubs, Trees and Climbers may be ordered at almost any time of the year because they are sent out in tins from which they can be planted out without disturbing the roots. Last month we sent out a fine catalogue dealing exhaustively with these. If you have not received a copy, please ask for it. Our good friend "Progress" writing in the gardening columns of the "Cape Times" has paid us a high compliment in regard to this catalogue, referring to it in eulogistic

terms and reprinting copiously from it. You can, therefore, feel assured that the information it gives is reliable and useful.

Seeds to Sow.—Where conditions are favourable you may sow in September the following seeds:—Asters, Adonis Flos, Ageratum, Begonia, Balsam, Calendula, Candytuft, Celosia, Clarkia, Cockscomb, Convolvulus, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Dahlia, Dianthus, Dimorphothea, Eschscholtzia, Gaillardia, Gerbera, Gilia, Globe Amaranth, Gloxinia, Godetia, Gypsophila, Hunnemannia, Kennedyia, Larkspur, Lathyrus latifolius, Linum, Linaria, Lobelia, Lupinus, Lychnis, Malcolmia, Marigold, Mignonne, Nasturtium, Nemesia, Pentstemon, Petunia, Phlox, Poppy, Portulaca, Pyrethrum, Salpiglossis, Scabious, Statice, Sunflower, Sweet William, Sweet Sultan, Sweet Peas (Summer Flowering), Swainsonia, Valerian, Violet, Virginian Stock, Wallflower and Zinnia.

Lawns may be replanted or new lawns may be laid this month with the grasses enumerated below. If it is desired to start a lawn from seed it is better to sow our **Kudulawn Mixture** in the autumn, that is, so far as the Cape is concerned. In summer-rainfall areas it may be tried at the time of the earliest rains and also in March if it can be irrigated through the winter.

Kikuyu Grass.—10/6 per sack; 5/- per sugar pocket.

Fine Quick.—7/6 per sack.

Broad Quick.—5/- per sack.

Kikuyu Grass is the easiest to establish and will succeed under very difficult conditions. It will grow in almost any kind of soil and is a remarkably rapid grower when well watered. On the other hand it is not easily killed by drought. For sporting grounds it is unsurpassed. Its fault lies in the spreading habit which makes it a little difficult to prevent it over running its proper bounds. In spite of this fault it is immensely popular because with proper attention it makes a lawn that is difficult to surpass.

The Fine Quick is very well known at the Cape and need hardly be commented upon. It is a great drought resister and makes an excellent lawn, while for Bowling Greens it is unsurpassed.

The Broad Quick is an old favourite lawn grass but not so much used now. For most purposes we think the others are better.

All these grasses may be planted at any time from April to September and even at other times if a sufficient water supply is available.

Fertilisers for the Flower Garden, Fruit Garden, Lawns and the Vegetable Garden can be had in a variety of forms and the town gardener is consequently not dependent upon crude Farmyard and Stable Manure. You will find a full list in your May number of "My Garden" and we are just referring to this now to direct your attention to a reduction of the price of **Meatmeal**. This Fertiliser is an excellent substitute for Government Guano which, as you know, is sold only to farmers. **Meatmeal** is rich in nitrogen and consequently a very valuable fertiliser but we are in the fortunate position of being able to sell it at a very low price because we have again secured the output of the Cape Town Abbatoirs. The present prices are as follows: 25 lbs 3/6; 50 lbs 6/-; 100 lbs 10/6; 200 lbs 19/6; 2000 lbs £9.

BEDDING PLANTS.

Gaillardia , double, mixed	...	doz.	1/-
Gazania Pinnata , beautiful orange-coloured Daisy with "Peacock" marking round the disc, very fine	... ..	2/-	
Larkspur , mixed	...	1/-	
Lobelia Compacta , "Crystal Palace"	...	1/-	
" " "Emperor William"	...	1/-	
Pentstemons , large-flowered, excellent strain	...	2/6	
Violets , "Californian" and "Prince of Wales"	...	1/-	

MICHAELMAS DAISIES.

Anita Ballard , double lavender blue	...	each	doz.
Climax , electric pale blue	...	6d.	4/6
Feltham Blue , a full toned blue	...	6d.	4/6
Lady Lloyd , rose pink	...	6d.	4/6
Mrs. H. Morris , deep rosy red	...	6d.	4/6
Nancy Ballard , double, pale rosy mauve	...	6d.	4/6
Small White	...		1/-
Small Mauve	...		1/-

OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

Agapanthus , blue	...	each	doz.
Cannas , yellow shades	...	9d.	7/6
" red shades	...	9d.	5/-
Crassula , white flowering, $\frac{1}{4}$ tins	...	9d.	5/-
Delphiniums , light blue shades	...	2/-	21/-
" dark blue shades	...	6d.	3/6
" large-flowering hybrids, mixed	...	6d.	3/6
Francoa Ramosa , Mexican Bridal Wreath, fine racemes of white flowers on upright stems, in pots	...	2/6	
German Iris , large-flowering, white	...	8d.	5/-
Hemerocallis , "The Monarch," pure orange, single trumpet, free-flowering, very fine	...	9d.	7/6
Hemerocallis , "Double," orange	...	9d.	7/6
Lychnis Chalcedonica	...		2/-
Matricaria , White Ball Flower	...		2/-
Perennial Sunflower , (Tuberous), "Miss Mellish," wonderfully free-flowering	...		1/-
Shasta Daisy , "Imperial," free-flowering, long stems	...		2/6
Shasta Daisy , "Ox-Eye," strong stems	...		1/6



NORCROSS GARDEN CULTIVATORS

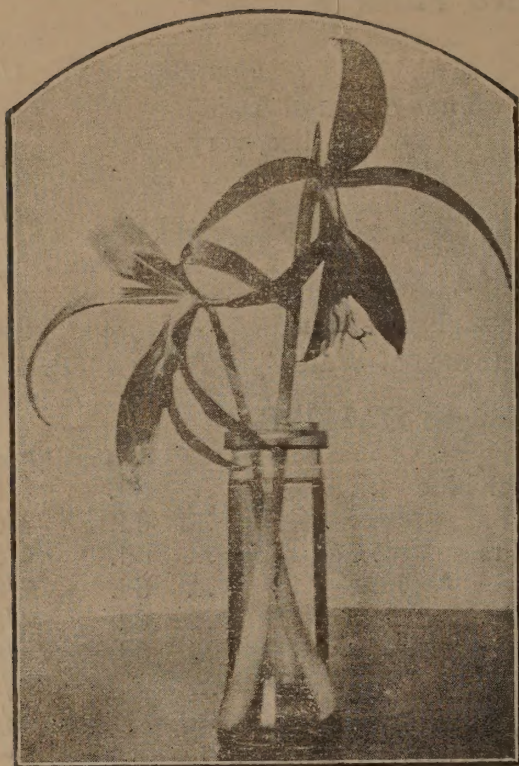
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- No. 33—3-Prong - 4/9
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No. 11—Midget - 2/6





SPREKELIA

FORMOSISSIMA.

Our illustration shows typical blooms of this beautiful Amaryllid. The flowers are intense scarlet and freely produced. The bulbs are very easily grown and can be had from us at 1/- each, or 10/- per doz. They do well either in pots or the open ground.

KIRSTENBOSCH.

A visit to the National Botanic Gardens at Kirstenbosch during September should well repay any trouble you may take to get there, and it will surely bring home to you the splendid work being carried on there. The institution has already been the means of saving from extinction at least one priceless floral gem, *Serruria florida*, that delicately graceful and charming plant of the Protea family known as "The Blushing Bride." The institution needs and is deserving of your support and whether it is an annual subscription of one guinea to the National Botanical Society, or a donation of one hundred or a thousand guineas, we are sure it will be equally appreciated. Mrs. Bolus, University, Cape Town, is the Honorary Secretary.

PRICE ALTERATIONS.

	pkt.	oz.	lb.
Cabbage, "Vlaeberg Spitzkool" ...	6d.	1/3	12/6
Dianthus Heddeggii, Japanese Pinks ...	6d.	10/6	
Virgilia Capensis, "Keurboom" ...	6d.	2/-	22/6
Sweet Peas, Summer-Flowering, "Scarlet Emperor" ...	6d.	7/6	

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